



DATE 29th May 2010
SUBJECT Under 7 Junior Activities Policy
APPROVED BY State Lifesaving Services Committee

The following policy statement was updated and adopted at the State Lifesaving Committee meeting held 29th May 2010 and adopted as State Policy from that date.

POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Surf Life Saving's Junior Activities Program aims to enrich the lives of children through fun, involvement and the acquisition of personal, lifesaving and competition skills.

As a basic introductory program to Junior Activities (5-13 years), Surf Life Saving Clubs in Queensland may conduct basic activities as part of an Under 7 Activities Program, for 5 and 6 year olds based around play, participation and fun.

The conduct of Under 7's activities or programs is not compulsory for Clubs to engage in. It is entirely an option for individual Clubs to consider based on their needs, manpower and resources. If Clubs do decide to provide Junior Activities for Under 7's in their Junior Programs, they would need to comply with the play, participation and fun guidelines outlined below.

This Under 7 Activities Policy has been created to outline the rules and regulations for Clubs to comply with in respect to the safe participation and administration of Under 7's programs.

Individual Clubs may apply additional criteria for the inclusion of Under 7's in Club activities in terms of parental involvement and duty of care. Consideration should also be given to a shorter time on the beach for Under 7's given their attention span and concentration levels.

POLICY STATEMENT

Clubs may provide supervision and activities for children under the age of 7 years in accordance with the following criteria and conditions:

1. **The absolute minimum age for such children is 5 years.** Age is determined as at midnight on 30 September at the commencement of that season.
2. All members must complete the SLSA Membership Application Form.
3. Chief Supervisors/Age Managers of the Under 6 & Under 7 age groups must be a minimum of 18 years of age, hold a current "Working with Children Blue Card" and it is desirable that they obtain a Resuscitation

Certificate as a minimum requirement and/or be encouraged to obtain other Surf Life Saving Awards i.e. Observers Certificate, SRC/BM, Official or Coaching Accreditations.

4.
 - a) Children should be involved in fun activities, however, under no circumstances are these children to participate in activities involving Surf Life Saving equipment such as nipper boards or fibreglass boards, IRB's, rescue boards, surf boats, skis and the like.
 - b) Children can utilise Club foam boogie boards (no hard plastic, rails or fins) in shallow water (broken waves only).
 - c) Beach activities should be conducted with an emphasis on games and group activities.
5. Children involved in Under 7 Activities can participate in **shallow water activities up to the distance of a wade depth course.**
6. The Under 7's Chief Supervisor / Age Manager should liaise with the Patrol Captain regarding the safest area to conduct shallow water activities.
7. For water safety ratio's of supervisors and/or water safety to children please refer to the SLSQ Water Safety requirements as set out in the Patrol Operations Manual.
8. Under no circumstances are these children to participate in **any** competition other than activities involved in fun games.
9. All participants in the Under 6 and Under 7 age group must wear a lifesaving cap during all junior activities sessions. Clubs may choose to identify the Under 6's and Under 7's via a different coloured cap i.e. Fluorescent green or coloured caps per age group for safety reasons.

Revision date: Annually